



**TOWN OF GRAFTON**  
**GRAFTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
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**MINUTES**  
**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
May 24, 2016  
Conference Room F (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Laura Often , Chairman  
Maureen Cohen, Vice Chair  
Peter Carlson, Secretary  
Jennifer Connelly, Member  
Teri Turgeon, Member

**Student** Bianca Carangelo  
**Representatives:**

**Also Present:** Dr. James Cummings, Superintendent of Schools  
Daniel Gale, Finance Director

**Call to Order – Open Session**

- a. Chairperson's Update: Mrs. Often opened the meeting welcoming back Teri Turgeon.
- b. Community Groups and Citizens - None

Grafton High School students who participated in the MIT Science Fair were present to discuss their experience at the fair. These 9<sup>th</sup> graders participated in the regional and state science fair. They outlined their project which was based on exploring alternative energy resources, specifically using hydro electricity to charge devices. They had a fun experience at the fair, they had question and answer sessions with judges and were able to gather good ideas to take back with them to explore further. Through the analysis period they were able to learn more ways they could improve their design. This was their first time participating. They discussed how their mentor Ms. Howland helped them a lot throughout the process however they did most of their research and experiments on their own. The students felt this was a positive experience and they'd like to get more students involved. They may present the idea of a science club to Mr. Pignataro. The Committee thanked the girls for presenting.

1. Educational Reports

- a. Special Education Update on the School to work program: Mr. Shawn Langavin and Mr. Lundwall were present to give an overview of the school to work program. Mr. Lundwall discussed the activities the students participate in outside of the school day. He showed slides and highlights of students working both in and outside the school system. The program currently had ten students ranging from ages 18-21. Mr. Lundwall reviewed the types of needs served these students. Mr. Lundwall noted that they recently contracted with Southern Worcester County to conduct vocational/transitional assessments. This year Mr. Langavin attended a multi day conference in order to learn how to administer the assessments. With this, they hope to gain further independence and not have to hire outside services to conduct the assessments. Mr. Lundwall hoped to promote this over the next year and have assessments done by Mr. Langavin. Mr. Lundwall gave an example of a daily schedule and curriculum outline. Past and current internships were discussed, these included several local businesses. Mr. Lundwall's students also assist with community service programs throughout Grafton. They strive to move students toward competitive employment opportunities, marketing their skills and getting them prepared. The students have learned about fundraising, advertising, and developing marketing skills. Mr. Lundwall showed a brief presentation on their button making program noting they raised \$1,750.00 through the sale of their buttons. Mr. Langavin introduced several students who worked on the local projects. He acknowledged all the hard work these students contribute to these projects, volunteering their time. Mrs. Turgeon asked what their favorite part of working was. Most agreed being around other people in the community and getting to meet co-workers was a favorite piece. Mrs. Turgeon commended the district for their success and for the overall program. She personally knew a child benefiting from the program stating that student did more in our district program than today out in an adult services program. She also suggested a breakfast to thank employers for their contribution. Mrs. Cohen felt it was nice to see such continuity in the program. Mr. Pogorzelski asked to recognize the staff for their assistance and dedication.

2. General Business

- a. Collaborative Report: Dr. Cummings presented the Assabet Valley Collaborative report and considered the district very lucky to be part of the collaborative. Mrs. Turgeon asked if there were opportunities for the School to Work program within this collaborative. Mr. Cummings would look into this.
- b. Review of Walk/Bike week at the Middle School, Millbury School Elementary and North Street Elementary. Mrs. Geoffry was present and gave an update on the events. The program was very successful and parents and students are already asking for another walking. Mrs. Geoffry was thankful for all the volunteers who helped make this a success. Mrs. Geoffry would like to formally request the formation of a Walk/Bike Committee made up of school leaders, student council members and parents. Mrs. Geoffry would also request hiring

official crossing guards. She said the Grafton Police Department was present but they too are over tasked. Mrs. Geoffry felt a committee could review all the aspects of the walking program along with the stride to ride program. Mr. Carlson thanked Mrs. Geoffry. Given the amount of work and resources needed he would be more apt to support this if he could see a study showing what would be necessary for staffing/supervision; all the costs associated with this program. Mrs. Geoffry felt there were all avenues to look at for staff and support and felt this could be part of the charge of the committee. It was noted that there was not current funding in the FY17 budget for this program. Mrs. Cohen thanked Mrs. Geoffry for her work on this project, she would support expanding the program but she too had funding concerns. Mr. Carlson suggested Mrs. Geoffry prepare a charge for the committee including goals. Once they had this they could consider forming a subcommittee. Mrs. Geoffry would like to see this program expand; make it a regular event and possibly open up the Middle School campus encouraging students to walk or bike to school. Mrs. Often thought it was a great program. She felt it was important to get buy in from all schools, this was a great start but it will take time to grow. The committee would consider this an ongoing project until Mrs. Geoffry could get back to them with additional information.

### 3. School Committee Member Reports

- a. Mrs. Often stated it was Ms. Carangelo's last meeting as she was graduating and heading off to college in the fall. She was the first student representative to serve for 2 full years. The committee felt the student's involvement made a difference. All members thanked Ms Carangelo for dedicating her time to the School Committee and presented her with a gift.

### 4. Superintendent's Report

- a. District Update - Dr. Cummings will be sending members an updated June activities list. He recognized Beth Folan for receiving a literacy award at the Mass Reading Conference. The Grafton Middle School recently presented *Beauty and the Beast* with rave reviews. The Fun Fair hosted by North Grafton PTG was held last Saturday with great success. Dr. Cummings thanked all those involved. The Unified Track team attended the State meet today and came in 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State. Dr. Cummings thought it would be nice to invite them into an upcoming meeting.

### 5. Future Agenda Planning:

- A. Mrs. Often stated she'd like to meet in the interim of the next regularly scheduled meeting to discuss goals and the timing of such. She would send out some meeting dates.
- b. Mr. Carlson felt workshops had been passed over recently and he'd hoped to see some of these return.
- c. Discuss summer schedule and policies.

- d. Mrs. Turgeon would like to review the bullying policy; specifically on Facebook and communication in Grafton when there were issues. Need to better educate parents on the chain of communication/conflicts.
- e. Mrs. Cohen would like a workshop on social media suggesting they bring in bring in an outside resource.

6. Approval of Minutes – April 12, 2016

A motion was made by Mr. Carlson to approve the minutes of April 12, 2016 as submitted with the inclusion of adding that the committee entered back into open session at 10:00 p.m. to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mrs. Cohen. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Mrs. Turgeon abstained) and 1-0 Student Representative.

7. Financial Report

- a. A motion was made by Mr. Carlson that the School Committee approve Warrant #48, dated May 26, 2016 in the amount of \$398,242.17. Motion seconded by Mrs. Turgeon. Motion carried 5-0 School Committee and 1-0 School Representative.

8. Policy: - None

- 9. Correspondence – Mr. Carlson noted correspondence from a community member relative to the mascot. He felt the committee should reach out to the member and decide the next steps to address their questions and concerns. Mrs. Turgeon felt the person should be invited into an upcoming meeting so they could publicly express their views. Mrs. Often agreed, she would reach out to this person and get their comfort level on attending a meeting.

- 10. At 8:10 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Carangelo to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Carlson. Motion carried 5-0 School Committee and 1-0 Student Representative.

Respectfully submitted



Cindy Ide

Recording Secretary